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SUBJECT: 1540 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PROPOSES DIFFERENT
CANDIDATE FOR EXPERT PANEL

REF: A. STATE 06792

- [1](#)B. USUN 37
- [1](#)C. SANDAGE/WILCOX EMAIL--09/17/06
- [1](#)D. WILCOX/SANDAGE/BROWN EMAIL--09/14/06

[1](#)1. BEGIN SUMMARY: At its informal meeting January 24, the 1540 Committee discussed, but did not reach decisions on several topics: (1) candidates to fill three current vacancies on the Committee's experts' panel; (2) disposition of the contracts of the Committee's five current experts (ref B), including the extension of current experts Richard Cupitt and Victor Slipchenko; (3) the Chairman's proposals for the Committee to hold thematic discussions within the Committee on issues relevant to resolution 1540 and the Committee's work; (4) the Committee's outreach efforts; (5) how the Committee should facilitate the delivery of technical assistance; and (6) the experts' panel's coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the 1267 Monitoring Team. END SUMMARY.

Filling Three Current Vacancies

[1](#)2. (SBU) Burian informed the Committee that he had decided to recommend that the Committee support one different nominee (refs A-B) to fill one of the three vacancies on the experts' panel. To ensure proper gender representation, Burian said the Committee should support Isabella Interlandi (Italy), rather than Brad Howlett (Australia). He added that the two other candidates he had recommended the Committee approve, Olivia Bosch (UK) and V. Siddhartha (India), remained the same. China and South Africa said they would have to seek instructions, but thought that the nominees Chairman Burian proposed would be acceptable. Burian said he would ask the Committee to approve appointment of his recommended candidates under a silence procedure.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Comment: Burian indicated that the issue was one of gender balance, but it is clear that the Italians (newly elected to the Council) weighed in to have the Chairman tap their candidate. Australia's Howlett, a well qualified candidate, has now twice narrowly missed serving as a Committee expert. Burian suggested that the Committee keep Howlett at the top of the list as it considers future expert appointments. End comment.

Addressing the Remaining Five Experts' Contracts

[1](#)4. (SBU) Burian reiterated his proposal for handling the expiring contracts of the five remaining experts (by extending Richard Cupitt and Victor Slipchenko through the

end of the year and ending the service of the other three when they reach their two-year anniversaries as UN consultants - ref B). France blocked agreement, noting that it needed more time to work out "technical" issues with the experts before being able to agree to the Chairman's proposal. In the end, however, the French believed that they would be able to support the proposal outlined by Burian, but it would take "perhaps, weeks." As part of the subsequent discussion, UKUN reiterated its demand that terms of reference be created for all experts. (Note: Such terms already exist for Cupitt.) South Africa expressed concern that -- if the Committee agreed to the Chairman's proposal -- the experts' panel would not retain an African expert. South Africa also questioned why the contracts of Cupitt and Slipchenko were being extended for longer than the other three experts.

15. (SBU) On the margins of the meeting, the French expert advised USUN that he will block the re-appointment of Slipchenko until the experts commit -- in writing -- to include an examination of means of delivery, as called for in the resolutions, in their work plan. Though the French do not object to extending Cupitt's contract, the two are now essentially linked together in the Committee's decision-making process. (Note: The Russians have made clear they will link Cupitt's reappointment to Slipchenko's.) The French (and UKUN) understand that our priority is to retain Cupitt on the panel of experts. (Comment: Although we do not think it is helpful to link directly the experts' contracts to substantive issues as France has done, we remain confident that the end result will be the long-term extension of Cupitt's contract. End comment.)

Implementation of the Program of Work

16. (U) Burian then recommended that the Committee engage in a series of thematic debates to help guide its work. (Note: The work program contemplates that the Committee would have such debates.) Burian also suggested that the Committee meet informally every two weeks. He noted that the experts had broken down the Committee's work program into seven basic tasks: 1) compiling the 2008 report to the Council; 2) reviewing the national reports submitted by Member States; 3) encouraging cooperation between the Committee and other bodies/organizations; 4) increasing outreach activities; 5) facilitating technical assistance; 6) implementing transparency in its work; and 7) preparing transition activities (relating to new experts). Expert Rick Cupitt told the Committee that the experts are generating a spreadsheet of these tasks and related subtasks, working backward from the obligation to report to the Council in 2008.

17. (U) Burian, although he asked for concrete suggestions, made it clear that he wanted a roadmap-like approach to make the Committee's work more productive and efficient. To allow the Committee to make the best use of briefings that outside organizations such as the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) are scheduled to provide the Committee in 2007, the UK stressed that the Committee should debate relevant issues before those briefings. (Note: The MTCR will brief the Committee in March.)

Outreach Activities

18. (U) The Committee also briefly discussed outreach. The UK said it is unfortunate that the Committee's outreach to date has been reactive and suggested that the Committee think about organizing its own outreach activities. Burian suggested that the Committee consider outreach in regions that had high rates of non-reporting, including CARICOM and the Small Pacific Island States. Burian added that Germany and Norway will brief Committee members at its next meeting

on their planning for the spring donors' conference.

Assistance Activities

¶9. (U) Burian asked members how they thought the Committee should pursue its work relating to technical assistance. He said the Committee needed to define its efforts on technical assistance to help promote states' implementation of resolution 1540. Burian suggested using the Committee's website to advertise information about states offering and requesting assistance. Committee expert Cupitt said the Committee should refine the information on its website to make offers of assistance more specific. Including matrices on states' implementation of resolution 1540 on the Committee's website also would promote the delivery of technical assistance, Cupitt said. Burian suggested the Committee meet with experts to organize and summarize the most helpful information that could be placed on the website.

Coordination with CTED and 1267 Monitoring Team

¶10. (U) Cupitt introduced the paper on outreach to non-reporting and late reporting states that the experts had prepared in conjunction with the 1267 Monitoring Team and CTED (refs C-D). UKUN noted that the three expert groups had drafted earlier papers on how to coordinate their efforts and improve reporting, but the Committee had never heard whether the efforts had produced results. Evaluating previous efforts would, UKUN said, help the Committee consider the experts' latest approach. Burian expressed frustration that the experts seemed to be working on a joint strategy with the other experts' groups, when the 1540 Committee had not yet come to agreement on its own outreach strategy.

Other Matters

¶11. (U) Burian proposed assignments for the new Committee members to the three sub-committees, and agreed to circulate them under a silence procedure. Burian also said Slovakia intends to hold a thematic debate in the Council in February, when Slovakia holds the rotating Council Presidency, on the role of international organizations in implementing 1540.

¶12. (SBU) Comment: Following the meeting, USUN reps expressed to Burian the U.S.' strong support for the idea of a thematic debate in the Council to focus attention on non-proliferation issues and 1540 implementation in particular. However (in response to a paper circulated by Burian to the P5), the USG recommended that participation in the thematic debate should be limited to those organizations listed in paragraph 8(c) of resolution 1540 and in particular, should not include the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization because that group's work is not relevant to implementation of resolution 1540. Burian was appreciative of U.S. support, and noted that he fully understood the U.S. position on participation. End comment.
WOLFF